Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 17294 151616Z ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 NEA-10 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03 /037 W

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R 151503Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743

UNCLAS CAIRO 17294

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: SNAR EG

SUBJ: MODE-PROPOSAL TO OPEN DEA DISTRICT OFFICE IN CAIRO

REF: STATE 302397

1. REFTEL RAISES PROBABILITY THAT DEA DISTRICT OFFICE FOR CAIRO WILL BE STAFFED BY TWO AMERICAN PERSONNEL. WISH TO INVITE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT DURING CODEL WOLFF VISIT, AMBASSADOR AGREED TO HAVE ONE DEA AGENT STATIONED IN CAIRO FOR A ONE YEAR TRIAL PERIOD. NO RPT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF AN AMERICAN CLERK ASSISTANT. WE BELIEVE THAT DEA CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC CAN BE TYPED BY THE POLITICAL SECTION SECRETARIES AS IS PRESENTLY DONE. OTHER UNCLASSIFIED LETTERS, CABLES AND DOCUMENTS COULD BE HANDLED BY A LOCALLY HIRED EMPLOYEE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF AMERICAN SECRETARY NEEDED, A LOCALLY HIRED AMERICAN WIFE MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED. AMBASSADOR IS FRANKLY NOT RPT NOT PERSUADED THERE IS SUFFICIENT WORKLOAD FOR TWO DEA PERSONNEL.

2. PRINCIPAL BASIS FOR OUR CONCERN ABOUT ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION IS ADMIN SUPPORT SITUATION IN CAIRO. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, HOUSING SITUATION IS IMPOSSIBLE AND WE HAVING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR PERSONNL ALREADY ON HAND AND SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. MANY HAVE BEEN IN BARELY ADEQUATE TEMPORARY QUARTERS FOR MONTHS WAITING FOR PERMANENT HOUSING. ADDITIONALLY, GIVEN LOCAL SUPPLY AND UTILITY SITUATION, IT IS A CONSTANT BATTLE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PERSONNEL ALREADY SETTLED. IN GENERAL, THE STATIONING OF EACH ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE, MARRIED OR SINGLE, TAXES OUR ALREADY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 17294 151616Z

OVERBURDENED ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES AND MAKES SITUATION MORE

DIFFICULT FOR THOSE ALREADY HERE. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY ASSIGNEMTN WHICH IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

3. EMBASSY CANNOT THEREFORE AGREE TO TWO DEA POSTIONS, AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN CAIRO HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE JUSTIFIABLE. EILTS

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Subject: MODE-PROPOSAL TO OPEN DEA DISTRICT OFFICE IN CAIRO

TAGS: SNAR, EG To: STATE

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